

PROCLAMATION

National Gun Violence Awareness Day

June 4, 2021

Whereas, every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence, alongside more than 230 who are shot and wounded, and on average there are more than 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

Whereas, Americans are 25 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

Whereas, Washington has 781 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 10.2 gun deaths per 100,000 people. Washington has the 40th highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

Whereas, gun homicides and assaults are concentrated in cities, with more than half of all firearm related gun deaths in the nation occurring in 127 cities; and

Whereas, cities across the nation, including in Seattle, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

Whereas, Seattle has adopted laws aimed at limiting gun violence, including requirements to report theft and loss of firearms, taxes on retail sales of firearms and ammunition and regulations for the safe storage of firearms; and

Whereas, the City of Seattle State Legislative Agenda stated support for common sense, responsible solutions to gun violence, which assisted with the passage by the State Legislature of SB 5038, to prohibit the open carry of firearms at public demonstrations; and

Whereas, the City has funded and continues to fund a variety of violence prevention programs, increasing funding in 2021 by \$14 million; and

Whereas, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is mayors 'highest responsibility; and

Whereas, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories; and

Whereas, gun violence prevention is more important than ever as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate gun violence after more than a year of increased gun sales, increased calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in city gun violence; and

Whereas, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 4, 2021 to recognize the 24th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born: June 2, 1997), people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to 1) Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and 2) the loved ones of those victims; and

Whereas, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

Whereas, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on June 4th, the first Friday in June in 2021, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

Whereas, by wearing orange on June 4, 2021 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

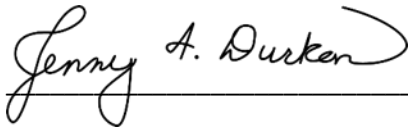
Whereas, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

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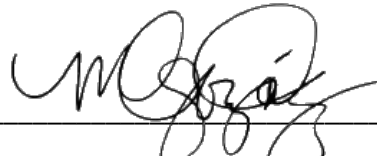
NOW, THEREFORE, THE MAYOR AND THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL PROCLAIM the first Friday of June 2021

Friday, June 4, 2021

National Gun Violence Awareness Day



Mayor Jenny A. Durkan



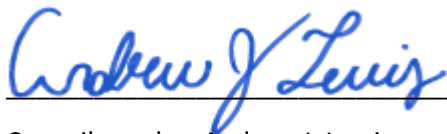
Council President M. Lorena González



Councilmember Lisa Herbold



Councilmember Debora Juarez



Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis



Councilmember Tammy J. Morales



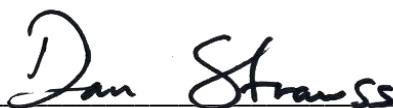
Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda



Councilmember Alex Pedersen



Councilmember Kshama Sawant



Councilmember Dan Strauss